



January 12, 2011

Mike Murry
Quality Schools Grant Administrator
301 South Park Suite 582
Helena, MT 159620-0549

Re: **Montana Quality Schools Program**

CTA Architects Engineers wants to express our support of the Montana Quality Schools Grants program. This important program is a triple win for our State:

1. It provides a means for schools to repair deteriorating building components that improve our student's learning environment.
2. It provides jobs for the Construction Industry in this tight economy.
3. Many of the measures implemented reduce utility costs so that schools can spend more of their dollars on student learning and less on electricity, gas, fuel oil or coal.

CTA has been able to help several schools because of this important program. We have been pleased with the process to identified schools that have "REAL" need and the prompt professional manner in which applications were processed. The staff administering the quality school grant program has done an exceptional job of informing and dealing with the application process. Many of the schools that we have visited through this program have failing and inefficient building components. Without the quality schools program, many of these schools do not have the resources to address these issues, while they continue to spend thousands of dollars on utilities. Some of the issues that we have identified through this program are as follows:

1. Failing / inefficient boilers
2. Failing temperature control systems that waste energy.
3. Failing or inadequate ventilation systems creating air quality issues.
4. Inefficient lighting systems wasting energy
5. Inadequate fire alarm systems
6. Envelope issues such as roofs, insulation and windows.

As you know things are tight in the Architectural and Engineering Industry and we count on this program to maintain our jobs. Professional Architectural Engineering services rendered through this program ensure that the identified projects are viable. Our

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services ensure payback through reduced utility costs and ultimately create better learning environments for our students.

We can't build the state and economy on second rate education and facilities. By investing in educational facilities with this program, we will enhance economic development, improve learning and safety for our students. This is our future let us build on it.

Sincerely,

Shawn C. Murray PE
CTA ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS